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**44th session of Working Group on Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Cameroon**

*(14 November 2023)*

**Intervention by Ukraine**

 *(Speaking time: 1 min 05)*

**Mr Vice President,**

Ukraine welcomes the delegation of Cameroon at the 44th session of the UPR Working Group and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

The efforts made by the Government of Cameroon since the 3rd UPR cycle are noteworthy. We commend institutionalization of gender by enshrining it in policies, programmes and services as well as measures taken by the Government to enhance education, health sector development and child welfare system.

Nevertheless, challenges that raise serious concerns, particularly in the context of the armed violence in the North-West and South-West regions, still remain. We are further concerned about the reports of crimes and human rights violations committed by security forces in the context of its counter-terrorism measures, as well as human rights abuses perpetrated by non-State armed groups.

We encourage Cameroon to continue with further work and would like to **recommend**:

* to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
* to intensify efforts for investigation of all credible allegations of crimes and human rights violations committed by armed forces and take concrete measures to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice;
* to strengthen measures aimed at combatting sexual, gender-based and domestic violence against women.

We wish the delegation of Cameroon a successful review.

**I thank you.**